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## HOW TO ENLIVEN GEOGRAPHICAL INSTRUCTION AND TO LIGHTEN IT.

BY

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### DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

The teacher of geography finds it impossible to avoid using a great number of foreign names; and these the student must, of course, expect to bear in mind. This, which is at first a discouraging element in the study, will become extremely attractive when the scholar is made to see that the names are not mere sounds, but, on the contrary, significant forms which may be interpreted.

It is true that this is not the case with all names. There are some which cannot be explained; and the method of instruction will sometimes not permit an etymological explanation of words of a remote and obscure origin. Passing over these, there will yet remain no small number of geographical names which can be made clear and intelligible through the languages to which they belong, if only the proper method be used.

Merely to give the name and the meaning of it, whether this be done by the teacher himself or set down in a book, would be to impose an additional burden on the scholar's memory. If rightly used, on the other hand, the explanations would come to the help of the memory, lighten the task of the teacher, and give a liv-

ing interest to the lessons. Even the most repellent city-names of China may be made intelligible in this way.

With the map of this, the most densely populated empire on the globe, before him, the teacher will remind his pupils that in English and in German, monosyllabic words are joined directly to others, *e. g.* : North Sea, South Sea, Deer Lake, Salt Lake, Cape Town, New Zea-Land, Nord-see, Ost-see, See-land, Land-see.

He will then add that the Chinese have in their singular language none but monosyllabic words, which can only be joined together indirectly. To illustrate, he will write on the blackboard the words : *Pe* = north, *Tong* = east, *Nan* = south, *Si* = west ; and in another line : *King* = capital, or king's household ; *Hai* = sea.

If under these be written the names *Peking* and *Nanking*, the scholars will see at a glance that by the former the Chinese understand the northern capital, and by the latter the southern capital. These two capitals of China, it might be shown, have their parallel in the Russian cities St. Petersburg, the residence of the Czar, and Moscow, the place of his coronation.

*By this simple process even a slow-minded pupil will soon cease to be bewildered by these strange names, will remember them with comparative ease, and will give them their true relative position.*

If, now, the teacher points to the sea that bounds China on the east, he finds that the scholars perceive it must be called in Chinese *Tong-hai*, and that *Nan-hai* must be the name of the sea that washes the southern shore. In this southern sea there is the island *Hainan*.

This will seem still less extraordinary that *Tong-hai* is equivalent to the English East Sea and the German Ost-see.

These examples having been sufficiently explained, and the words set down on the blackboard having been copied by the pupils, the teacher will then write under *Si* the words: *Chu* = pearl, *Yang-tse* = blue, *Hoang* = yellow; and below *Hai*: *Kiang* = stream, *Ho* = river.

Attention will then be called to the confluence of three rivers above and north of Canton, flowing from the respective cardinal points after which they are named. The *Si-kiang*, or west stream, has its place in most of the school-books, and the pupil, looking for a *Pe-kiang*, or north stream, and a *Tong-kiang*, or east stream, is able at once to form in his mind and to retain a far more lively idea of a river-system and the importance of its commerce than that which any other mode of teaching could furnish.

The three rivers just named unite and form the *Chu-kiang*, or the pearl stream. The blue stream is the *Yang-tse-kiang*, which is very broad and deep in its lower course, and navigable for large vessels a very great distance from its mouth. The *Hoang-ho*, or yellow river, has cut its bed deep through the yellow soil, from which it derives its color. Yellow Sea = *Hoang-hai*.

With younger pupils the explanation of names might stop at this point for the day, and the rest of the lesson might be devoted to a general account of China and its remarkable people. For older scholars the teacher might proceed to speak of the coast, the mountains, the rivers; etc. For these pupils he would write below *Hoang*: *Thián*, or *Tién*, = heaven; *Shang* = the upper, upward; *Han* = sand; *Chung* = the middle; and below *Ho*: *Shan* = mountain; *Tsin*, or *Chin*, = place; and

in a third line: *Thian-shan* = mountain of heaven; *Tien-tsin* = place of heaven.

Here the teacher would point out that the word *Hia* signifies *below*, and that the Chinese call their empire by the name of *Tien-hia*, "below heaven," meaning by this the earth; and he would correct in this way the mistaken expression of the "Celestial Empire."

Then would follow: *Shang-hai* = up the sea; *Han-hai* = sand sea (desert of Gobi); *Chung-king* = the middle capital; *Tong-king* = eastern capital, or country; *Mai* = to buy; *Mai-mai* = to buy and sell, to trade,—a similar combination to that of the Latin *quisquis*. *Mai-mai-tchin*, usually *Maimatchin*, = a place of trade. *Fu* designates, it would be said, a city of the first rank, and *Cheu* one of the second rank.

It is easy to see that a healthy mind must be roused and interested in the highest degree by a subject presented in a manner at once so concise and so direct. What were before unmeaning sounds have become instinct with life through the explanations made, and it cannot be doubted that whatever is read or studied concerning China will be held with a firm grasp. With the application of the same principle to the names of Mongolia, there will be found occasion for striking comparisons. *Dagh* = mountains; *Muren* = river; *Tengri* = Heaven; *Kara* = black.

The Mongol *Tengri Dagh*, it will be seen, has the same meaning as the Chinese *Thian-shan*, mountains of heaven. *Kara Muren* (now *Amur*) is the black river. If the pupil is now reminded that in the Balkan Peninsula, in Eastern Europe, there are to be found the *Kara Dagh*, or black mountains, and the *Karassu*, or black river, he

cannot fail to note and to remember the wide range of the Mongol race. And when he hears, in the lesson on Japan, that *To* means east, and *Sai* west, and *Kio* capital, so that *Tokio* = eastern capital, and *Saikio* = western capital, he must be struck with the likeness of these expressions to the Chinese *Tong-si-king*.

In treating the East Indies it would be advisable to consider the Archipelago, Hindustan, and Farther India all together, and to divide the names according to the different languages. Many of these names belong to the Sanskrit, or to its derivative, the Hindustani.

It will be best to study at first the appellations of the islands and mountains and rivers, and afterwards to take up the cities. *Diva*, or *Dvipa*, it is found, means island; *Mataia*, the coast of Malabar; *Singh*, lion; *Java*, millet, and *Lak*, or *Laksha*, one hundred thousand.

Of the old name *Java diva* (millet island), the first part only has survived. It is the same with *Singhala dvipa*, from which the *dvipa* has been dropped, while the *Singhala* has become Ceylon, though the inhabitants are still known as Singhalese.

The Laccadive Islands are so called because of their immense number: *Laksha dvipas* = hundred thousand islands; and the Maldives take their name from the words *Malania dvipas* = islands of Malabar; *Sindhava* = stream; *Nadi* = river; *Brahma* = name of God; *Sankar* = a surname of the god Siva; *Putra* = a son; *Alaya* = abode; *Hima* = snow; *Gauri* = white; *Maha* = great.

Putting these together, it is easily seen that the abode of snow must be *Himālaya*, that the white (god) Siva will be *Gaurisankar*, and the son of Brahma, *Brahma-*

*putra*. We shall find in *Mahanadi* the great river, and in the analogous combination *Maharajah*, the great king.

The name of India itself is taken from the word *Sind*, or *Indus*, = a stream. *Pura* means a city; *Kata*, a holy place; *Kali*, the goddess of destiny; *Nagor*, a city; *Sri*, the goddess of good fortune; *Naga*, a serpent.

In the history of Alexander the Great there is mention of *Pura*, a city of Caramania; and Singapore is of course *Singapura* = the lion's city; the island taking the same name; *Nagapur* is *Nagapura* = the city of serpents; *Srinagar*, the city of Sri (the goddess), and Calcutta *Kalikata*, the holy place of Kali, the goddess of destiny.

In Northwestern India the names are frequently of Arabic and Persian origin: *Stan* = land; *Ab* = water (and hence the land between rivers); *Abad* = city; *Allah* = God; *Hindu* = Indian; *Haider* (or *Hyder*) a proper name = lion; *Penj* = five. From these we have: *Hindustan* = the land of the Hindus; *Penjab* (or *Punjab*) = land of five rivers; *Allahabad* = the city of God; *Hyderabad* = city of Hyder.

It will illustrate the vast extent of the Arabian empire in former times to remind the pupil that the name of the southern district of Portugal, Algarve, is also Arabic, and signifies the West.

India (including, as already mentioned, the islands) has also names of European origin, such as the English words: *Strait*, *Mount*, *Settlement*. Mount Everest (*Gaurisankar*) received its present name from that of the Englishman who ascertained its height, 29,004 ft. The Straits Settlements are the settlements along the Straits of Malacca.

Dutch names also are met with: *Zorg* = care; *Buiten* = without; *Buitenzorg* = without care,\* a town of Java, thirty-six miles south of Batavia, the capital, which has a fine harbor, but an unhealthy climate.

The lessons on Iran, Arabia, Asiatic Russia, and Asiatic Turkey would proceed in a similar way.

In Africa there might be made three divisions of names: those of North and Northwest Africa; those of Middle and South Africa, and those of the East and the West coasts and the islands.

In Middle and South Africa the negro languages are very much alike, and new words are formed by prefixes, as in the following: *Sunga* = white; a white man is called *Msunga*, and a number of white men, *Wasunga*; the white man's country is *Usunga*, and his language is *Kisunga*; *U* = country, and with this prefix are formed the many names of countries in *U*, such as: *Ukerewe*, an island in the lake Victoria Nyanza, the source of the Nile; *Nyanza* and (farther to the South) *Nyassa* = lake; and of these we make *Ukerewe Nyanza*, or Lake Ukerewe, the Victoria Nyanza, named in honor of Queen Victoria of Great Britain.

In like manner the Albert Nyanza received its name from the Queen's consort, Prince Albert.

*Uganda* is a fertile region to the northwest of the Ukerewe Nyanza; *Usagara* is the part of the East African coast recently acquired, near Zanzibar, by the Germans, and the native inhabitants are called *Wasagara*. Farther to the westward lies *Unya-m-wesi*, the moonland, from *m-wesi*, the moon. The people are *Wa-nya-m-wesi*, inhabitants of the moonland.

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\* Cf. the French *Sans-souci*.



On the Zambezi (which means *stream*) are the Victoria Falls, known to the natives as *Mosivatunya*, a word that expresses the astonishment and awe with which they beheld this mighty cataract: *Mosivatunya*, "Here roars the smoke."

Surely, every thoughtful scholar must say to himself that men who can give utterance to their emotions in words so fit do not stand on the level of the lower animals, and he must feel that this strange African name, with its explanation, takes firmer root in his memory than the more familiar Victoria Falls.

The coasts of Africa, we learn from history, were first visited by the Portuguese, and the record of their presence endures in the appellations born by the natural features of the country. For instance: *Angra* = bay, *Cabo* = cape, *Aguilha* = needle (and needle of the compass), *Corrente* = current, *Esperança* = hope, *Pequena* = little, *Blanco* = white, *Verde* = green, *Negro* = black, *Boa* = good, *Tormentoso* = stormy, *De* = of (sign of the genitive).

The pupils will see for themselves that *Angra Pequena* means little bay, and the teacher causes them to observe how the name of the bay has been extended to the bordering coast. *Cabo Blanco*, white cape, *Cabo Verde*, green cape, and *Cabo Negro*, black cape, present no difficulty to the learner.

In 1486 Bartholomew Diaz reached almost the southern point of the African continent, and found the seas so stormy that he named the cape *Cabo Tormentoso*, and turned back. King John II., however, looking forward to a successful doubling of the cape, changed the name given by Diaz to that of *Cabo de Boa Esperança*, Cape of Good Hope.

Cape *Agulhas*, or the Needles, is so called because at this point the compass varies, and *Cabo das Correntes* is the cape of the currents, which are here very strong.

The native name of the eastern cape of the continent was changed by the Portuguese to *Guardafui*, from the words *Guarda*, caution, and *fui*, I was (there). The meaning then would be: "Caution! I was there, and know the danger of the navigation." \*

Other Portuguese words are: *Ilha* = island, *Ponta* = point, *Porto* = port, *Principe* = prince, *Palma* = palm, *Madeiro* = trunk of a tree, wood, *Anno* = year, *Natal* = Christmas, *Bom* = good, *São* = saint, *Bojar* = to project, *Tres* = three, *A* = the (fem. article). From these may be explained at once: *Madeira* = wood island (it was thickly covered with forests, when discovered), *Ilha do Principe*, or *Principe*, prince's island, *Annobom* = New Year's Island (it was discovered on New Year's Day, 1471), *São Thomé* = St. Thomas, *Cape Bojador* = the prominent cape, *Cabo das Palmas* = cape of palms, *Cabo de Tres Pontas* = cape of three points, *Port Natal* = Port Christmas (at this place Vasco da Gama spent the Christmas of 1497). Explained in a similar way, the names taken from other languages will be found to be not less significant.

When we come to treat of Europe it will be found that the Balkan Peninsula played a most prominent part in ancient history; and here the geographical names must be arranged according to the different languages from which they are derived. There is a great diversity in these languages, and from these introductory remarks

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\* The explanation sometimes given of this word—"Take care!"—is without meaning.—(K. GANZ.)

it will be possible to form a clear conception of the agitated life led by the people of this region. From the Greek are: *πόντος* (Latin, *pontus*) = sea, *πόρος* = ford, *νησος* = island, *ἡπειρος* = continent, *ισθμός* = isthmus, *ὄρος* = mountain, *ποταμος* = river, *πύλος* (pl. *πύλαι*) = gate, *ὁ κύων* (gen. *τοῦ κυνός*) = dog, *βοῦς* (gen. *βοός*) = ox, cow, *ἄιξ* (gen. *αἰγός*) = goat, *κεφαλή* (pl. *κεφαλαί*) = head, *κύκλος* = circle, environs, *θερμός* = warm, *ἄξεινος* = inhospitable, *εὐξεινος* = hospitable, *ἅγιος* = holy, *πρό* = before, in front.

The ancient name of the Black Sea, *πόντος ἄξεινος* (the inhospitable sea), was changed after many Greek colonies had been founded on its coasts into *πόντος εὐξεινος* (*Pontus Euwinus*, or the hospitable sea). *Bosporus* = ox-ford or cow-ford, so-called because the fabulous Io was said to have crossed it as a cow. *Propontis*, named from its position in front of the Black Sea, as well as of the *Ægean*. *Hellespont* = sea of Helle, because here, according to tradition, Helle fell into the water and was drowned. *Kyklades* (the Latin *Cyclades*), named from the word for circle, because they encompass the holy island of Delos. *Peloponnesus* = the island (or peninsula) of Pelops, who landed there from Asia. *Epirus* = the continent, as opposed to the neighboring Ionian Islands. Mount Athos was called the *Hagion Oros*, or sacred mountain. *Kynoskephalai* (Latin *Cynocephalæ*) = the dogs' heads.\* Battle, 197 B.C. *Thermopylæ* = the gate of the warm springs. *Aigospotamos* = the goat-river. *Isthmus* of Corinth (*isthmus*, in English). To continue the illustration: *πόλις* = a city, *χαλκός* = ore, copper. *μέγας* = great (fem. *μεγάλη*, neut. *μέγα*), *ἡ* = the (fem,

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\* Two ranges of hills with this appearance.

sing.), αἱ = the (fem. pl.). *Constantinople* = city of Constantine, who made it his capital, A.D. 330. *Adrianople* = city of Hadrian, Roman Emperor, 117 to 138, A.D. *Philippopolis* = city of Philip. It was founded by Philip of Macedon, who reigned from 359 to 336, B.C.

*Megalopolis*, (ἡ μεγάλη πόλις,) = the great city. *Pylus* = the door, or entrance. A considerable port of the Peloponnesus. *Chalcis* = city of ore. The inhabitants of this city, which was on the Island of Eubœa, founded colonies in Thrace, and these were called Chalcidian cities (αἱ Χαλκιδικαὶ πόλεις). From these cities the peninsula *Chalkidike* (Latin, *Chalcidice*) took its name.

From the word μέτωπον, which means *forehead*, *front*, was derived the name of Cape Matapan, the most southerly headland of Greece. λαμπειν = to shine. From this verb is taken the name of Olympus = the light-shining mountain, its summit being covered during a great part of the year with snow. ἀκτὴ = a steep coast; and hence Attica, formerly ἀκτικὴ, = coast land. παρθένος = virgin; and from this comes the name of the Parthenon = the house, or the temple, of the virgin goddess Athene. ὄλυνθος = fig. The city Olynthus was, therefore, the place, or city, of figs. ἄκρος = the highest; and the Acropolis was the citadel, the highest point of the fortified city. πλατὺς means broad, or flat; and Plataea is equivalent, therefore, to "the broad field." σπείρειν = to sow, or to scatter. From this verb is derived the name of Sparta = the scattered city, consisting of four or five open places. The Sporades, or scattered islands, have the same derivation.

From the Latin *palatium*, the royal residence, or castle, comes the name of Spalato, in Dalmatia.

From the beginning of the great migration, various peoples of Slavic race pushed their way into the peninsula, as many of the names show :

*Grad* = castle; *Belny* = white; *Belgrad* = white castle. At a later day the Turks came in to overrun the land; and in their language *Balkan*, or *Dagh*, means mountain, and *Kara* black. The Balkan Peninsula is, therefore, the mountainous peninsula; and *Karadagh* is black mountain, *black* here meaning rocky, or sterile.

It is known that in very early times the Phœnicians carried on an active commerce between Asia and Europe. The word *salām*, which in their language means *peace*, gave the name to the island of Salamis, properly the place, or settlement of peace. There was a colony of the same name in Cyprus, and almost identical with it are the Hebrew *Jerusalem*,\* the place of peace, and the Arabic *Dar-es-salam*, or district of peace, on the coast of Zanzibar. The ancient name of the Balkan range was the Hæmus, and from this the peninsula was named.

*Rumili* (Rumelia) means the country of the men of Rum (so the Turks called the Greeks living in those parts); *Romuni* (Rumanians), or Romans, whose tongue is very like the Latin; *Rumania*, the country of the Romans.

In a similar way are to be taken up and explained the names in Italy, in the Iberian Peninsula, and in France.

In the case of Great Britain and Ireland it will be found, by scholars acquainted with English, that many of the names are intelligible at first sight. Take, for instance, the following: The English Channel; the Strait

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\* Salem, in Massachusetts, in North Carolina, in Oregon, and other American States.—(K. GANZ.)

of Dover; the Firth of Clyde (bay of the river Clyde); the Land's End (compare with this Cape Finisterre—*finis terræ*); the Grampian Mountains; the Grand Junction Canal; the Grand Canal; the Royal Canal; Newcastle; Oxford; Waterford; Plymouth (city at the mouth of the river Plym); Eddy = whirlpool, and so Eddystone = whirlpool rock (about which the sea is very stormy).

In the German schools the teacher expects the pupils to find for themselves the translation of these English names.

In the Keltic tongue *Pen* means a mountain; and from this we have the Pennine Chain; *Ben* Nevis = Nevis mountain; and the names of other Scottish peaks.

Vergyn (Erin, from which comes Ireland) = the western island, or land of the west.

England (Angle land) has its name from the Angles and Saxons, who settled in Britain in 445 A.D.

Both in English and in German schools it is easy to interpret and explain Danish and Swedish geographical denominations. In Swedish, *Sund* = strait, sound; *Stäke*, or *Stock*, strait or passage; *Oe* (*ö*) island; *Holm*, little island; *Land*, land; *Fjell*, high table-land; *Elf*, river; *Borg*, castle; *Köping*, market-place, trading-place; *Karl*, brave, valiant man; *Troll*, evil spirit, devil; *Sala*, hall; *Hätta*, cap, hat; *Snee*, snow; *Nord*, north; \**Long*, long; *Ny*, new; *Klar*, bright, clear; *God*, good; *Upp*, high; *Oland*, island; *Godland*, good land; \**Longfjell*, long high land; *Sneehättan*, snow hat (covered with snow); *Dalelf*, valley river; *Klarelf*, clear river; *Trollhätta* (rock), devil's hat rock (Trollhätta Falls); *Dalkarle*, valley men (brave men of the valley); and from this word comes

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\* The Swedish vowel here represented by *o*, has the sound of *o* in *note*.

the name of the province Dalecarlia; in German, Dalekarlien.

It ought here to be mentioned that in Swedish the definite article is appended to the substantive. For instance: *Dal* = valley; *Dallar* = valleys; and *Dallarne* = the valleys. So *Mälarn* = the Mälar; and to say and write in another tongue the Mälarn Lake is to commit an error; *Stockholm* = island of the sound, the city being situated where the Mälar Lake is connected by two passages with the Baltic Sea; *Sala* = hall, and *Upsala*, high hall; here was the oldest temple of the north; *Nordköping* = north market-place; *Nyköping* = new market-place; *Göteborg* = Castle of the Goths; and *Göta-elf* = river of the Goths.

In the Danish language, which is spoken also in Norway, we find: *Fiord* = the long inlet of a bay (compare the English *firth*): *O* \* (as in Swedish) = an island; *oer* = islands; *næs* = point of land, promontory; *field* = table-land, high plateau; *land* = land; *havn* = port; *borg* = castle; *faar* = sheep; *lind* = lime-tree; *halde* = pointed rock, battlement; *kiøb* \* = purchase; *lyst* = pleasure, lust; *lang* = long; *ny* = new; *lav* (*laa*) = low. From these can be explained:

*Thronðjemfiord* = Bay of Drontheim; *Langeland* = long land; *Laaland* = flat, or lowland; *Faaroer* = sheep islands; *Lindesnæs* = promontory of lime-trees; *Langfield* (Sw. *Longfiell*) = long table-land, or range; *Kiøbenhavn* (Copenhagen) = purchase, or trading, port; *Fredrikshavn* = Fredericksport; *Fredriksborg* = Frederick's castle; *Fredrikshald* = Frederick's battlement (a fortress

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\* The Danish letter in this word and in *Kiøbenhavn* is made with a stroke through it from right to left.

against Sweden); *Nyborg* = Newcastle; *Marienlyst* = Mary's pleasure, a noted watering-place.

We come next to Russia and the Slavic countries. In treating the Polish and Czech geographical names, the teacher should point out the great extent of country formerly held by the Slavs between the Elbe and the Saale rivers and the Fichtelgebirge and the Böhmerwald. As a consequence, many of the names in the eastern part of the neighboring country are of Slavic origin and call for explanation.

The termination *ice* (*itz*) marks a great number of these names: *Teply* = warm; *Teplíce* (*Teplitz*) = warm wells, or springs; *Kamen* = stone; *Chemnitz* (Saxony) = place, or city, of stones; *Kremen* = flint; *Kremnitz* (Hungary) = city of flints; *Mor* = sea; *Po* = along; *Pomorici* (Pomerania) = land along the sea; *Brod* = ford; *Deutschbrod* = German ford; *Böhmischbrod* = Bohemian ford (battles were fought at these two places in the Hussite war); *Blato* = swamp; *Balaton* (*Platten* see) = swamp lake (drainage has now converted much of the swamp into dry and fertile land); *Lusa* = marsh; *Lausitz* = marshy woodland; *Pustina* = desert, and from this word the heaths of Hungary received the name of *Pusztas*; *Lipa* = lime-tree; *Lipsk* (*Leipzig*) = place or city of lime-trees; *Bukowi* = beech grove; *Bukowina* = land of beech groves; *Hrschak*, *Krak*, = bush, shrub; *Krakau* (Cracow) = place of bushes; *Zito* = grain; *Zit-tau* = city of grain; *Halic* = salt; *Galicia* = country, or place, of salt.

In Australia and Polynesia, and also in America, many geographical points and places have been named after distinguished seamen, or other men of great renown, in



honor of certain days, or events, and the like. Concerning these, the teacher will state the most important facts, remembering, however, that the main object is always to be the explanation of those names which can be easily interpreted from the respective languages, while their forms are such as to admit of their being traced by the unassisted efforts of the students themselves.

In South and Central America, in Mexico, and in the West Indies, very many names come from the Spanish (in Brazil they are of Portuguese origin), and these are often easily understood: *Rio* = river; *Norte* = north; *Plata* = silver; *Colorado* = red; *Negro* = black; *Grande* = great; *Rápido* = rapid; *El* = the (masc.), *La* = the (fem.); *De* = of (gen.). In Spanish the adjective follows the substantive, and there is no difficulty in comprehending that *Rio Colorado* means red river; *Rio Negro*, black river; *Rio Rápido*, rapid river; *Rio de la Plata*, river of silver; and *Rio Grande del Norte*, great river of the north.

It will sometimes be well to accompany the translation of the name with illustrative remarks. For instance: *Trinidad* (island) was discovered by Columbus on the 31st July, 1498, and received its name in honor of the Holy Trinity. *Dominica* (island) was discovered by Columbus on Sunday, the 3d Nov., 1493, and received its name in consequence (Sunday, *dies dominica*).

*Plaza* = place, square; *Plazuela* = little square; *Venecia* = Venice; *Venezuela* = little Venice (the discoverer, Ojeda, found on the coast a settlement built upon piles, and where the people went from house to house in boats, and for this reason he called the place Venezuela). *Patagonia* = land of the large feet: so named

by Magellan and his companions from the large-footed men (*Patagones*) found there. *Angostura* = strait, narrow channel: a city on the Orinoco, at a point where the river is very narrow. The name is now changed to *Ciudad Bolívar*, or City of Bolívar, in honor of the Liberator. Even the formidable Mexican words will be divested of their terrors by a little intelligent study. *Tepetl* = mount; *Cihuatl* = wife; *Citlalin* = star; *Iztac* = white; *Pópoca* = smoking. *Citlaltepetl* is, therefore, star mountain; *Pópocatepetl*, smoking mountain (volcano); and *Iztaccihuatl*, white wife. This last is an appellation every way similar to that of the Swiss mountain, the *Jungfrau*, so called from its white, shining appearance, as of a white-robed nun, by the side of its dark neighbor, the *Mönch* (monk).

So understood, the name *Iztaccihuatl* loses its uncouthness. *Méxitli* (*Méjitli*) was the name of the Mexican god of war, and *Mexico* signifies the city of the god of war. *Mázatl* = deer; *Mazatlan* = place of deer; *Zácatl* = straw of Indian corn; *Zacatlan* (now *Zacatecas*) = place of corn-straw; *Quáhítl* = tree, wood; *Tēma* = put down. Of these two words are formed *Quatemalli* = pile of wood; and *Quatemallan* (now *Guatemala*) = place of pile of wood.

We have thus far given a number of general explanations as to the origin of geographical names in different countries. Very many more would occur in the study of any one country, and the consideration of the names in the place next at hand will show that there are some which are natural and self-evident, others that admit of an interpretation more or less easy, and others again, the origin and meaning of which are lost in obscurity. All this will be illustrated in German schools by examples

taken from Germany, in English and American schools by English examples, and the whole made clearer by comparison with instances taken from other countries and languages.

Names of cities and towns of later origin often relate to accidents, or relations, of the geological surface, or to some more or less remarkable natural feature, such as: springs, creeks, water, rapids, ford, mouth, harbor, land, plain, height, hill, mountain, stone, and rock.

From the word *spring* are: *Warmbrunn* (Silesia); *Hot Springs* (Arkansas); *Teplitz*, warm spring (Bohemia); *Tiflis*, warm spring (Trans-Caucasia); *Thermopylae*, gate, or pass, of the warm springs (Greece); *Bloemfontein*, flower-spring (Orange Free State).

From *creek*, *water*, and *rapids*: *Reichenbach*, great creek (Saxony); *Stillwater* (Minnesota); *Grand Rapids* (Michigan).

From the word *ford*: *Schweinfurth* and *Ochsenfurth* = Hogford and Oxford (Bavaria), *Oxford* (England), *Waterford* (Ireland), *Hartford* (Connecticut), *Rockford* (Illinois).

From *harbor* and *river-mouth*: *Weichselmünde* = mouth of the Vistula (Prussia), *New Haven* (Connecticut), *Newport* (Rhode Island), *Lockport* (New York), *Porto* = port (Portugal), *Puerto Rico* = rich port (West Indies), *Porto Alegre* = happy harbor (Brazil), *Port Natal* = Christmas harbor (South Africa), *Puerto Principe* = prince's port (Cuba), *Port au Prince* = prince's port (Hayti), *Le Havre* = the harbor (France), *Kjöbenhavn* = trade harbor (Denmark), *Bender Abbassi* (Gombroon) = port of Abbas (Persia).

From *land* and *field*: *Friedland* = land of peace

(Prussia), *Portland* (Maine), *Springfield* (Massachusetts, Illinois, etc.).

From *height, hill, mountain, stone, rock*: *Wilhelmshöhe* = William's height (Cassel, in Hesse), *Freiberg* = free mount (Saxony), *Chapel Hill* (North Carolina), *Little Rock* (Arkansas), *Gold Hill* (Nevada); *Tyre* = rock (now Sûr, in Syria).

There are classes of names which refer to the presence and the action of man upon the earth. Such are the names embodying the words *church* (and *minster*), *castle*, *market*, *city*, and the like. We have, for instance, from the word *church*: *Fünfkirchen* = five churches (Hungary), *New Westminster* (British America), and many others.

From *castle*: *Neuburg* = new castle (Bavaria), *Newcastle* (England), *Weissenburg* = white castle (Alsace), *Belgrad* = white castle (Servia), *Temesvar* = castle on the Temes (Hungary), *Tashkent* = stone castle (Russian Turkestan), *Newburg* (New York).

From *market*: *Newmarket* (England), and the German form *Neumarkt* (Bavaria).

From *city, town*, and their equivalents: *Neustadt* = new city (in many parts of Germany), *Naples* (from *Neapolis* = new city, in Italy), *Cirta* = city (now Constantine, Algeria), *Novgorod* = new city (Russia), *Carthage* = new city (North Africa), *Arizona City* (now Yuma), *Iowa City*, *Jersey City*, *Kansas City*, *Nebraska City*, *Virginia City*, *Great Salt Lake City*, *Middletown* (Connecticut, and other American States), *Freetown* (Sierra Leona), *Cape Town* (Cape Colony), *Irkutsk* = city on the Irkut, *Yakutsk*, *Yeniseik*, *Tobolsk*, *Nicolaievsk* = city of Nicholas (these five in Siberia), *Singapore* = city of lions, *Nagpore* = city of serpents, *Allahabad* = city of God, *Hyderabad* = city of Hyder (these in India).

Many places take their names from men and women. Such are: *Königsberg* = king's mountain (Prussia), *Kingston* (Jamaica), *Charlestown* (Massachusetts), *Elizabethtown* (New Jersey), *Georgetown* (British Guiana), *Lewiston* (Maine), *Louisville* (Kentucky), *St. Louis* (Missouri), *Washington* (frequent in the United States), *Adelaide* (South Australia), *Alessandria* (Italy), *Alexandria* (Egypt), *Iskanderun* = city of Alexander (Syria), *Yarkand* = place of friends (Chinese Turkistan).

Examples of names derived from animals are: *Heringsdorf* = village of herrings (Usedom Island, Prussia), *Buffalo* (New York), *Mazatlan* = place of deer (Mexico).

From plants there are many like the following: *Weingarten* = vineyard (Württemberg), *Oakland* (California), *Olynthus* = place of figs (pen. Chalcidice), *Leipzig* (Lipsk) = place of lime trees (Saxony), *Cracow* = city of bushes (Galicia), *Zacatecas* = city of corn-straw (Mexico).

We find also names taken from minerals: *Silberberg* = silver mountain (Silesia), *Salzburg* = salt castle (Austria), *Carbon* (Wyoming), *Esmeralda* = emerald (Venezuela), *Diamantino* and *Diamantina* (Brazil), etc.

In treating the subjects of physical and mathematical geography, the names and words, even though very familiar, should not be passed over without an explanation made at the moment. It should be shown, for instance, that the Russian *step* (*steppe*) means a wilderness, or grassy plain, like those of Northern Asia and South-western Russia. So *pustina*, a Slavic word, means *desert*, and from this word the *pusztas* in Hungary are named. *Llano* (Spanish) means *flat*, and hence the *llanos*, the

treeless plains on the Orinoco. From the Spanish *sábana* a *sheet*, and figuratively a wide plain, comes the term *savanna*, a grassy plain. The French *prairie*, adopted in English for the prairies of North America, means a *meadow*. *Pampa*, a Quichua word, means a *plain*, and is so applied in the Argentine Republic.

From the Spanish *mula* (Latin *mulus*) we have the word *mulatto*, properly a hybrid; from the Latin *mixtus*, and derivatives, the Spanish *mestizo*, meaning mixed white and Indian blood; and the word *zambo*, the name of an ugly South American dog with a horse-like head, is applied to a person of mingled negro and Indian race. The Spanish word *criollo* (English *creole*) is often improperly used; it means rightly an American born of European (Spanish, Portuguese, or other) parentage.

The Greek  $\sigma\phi\alpha\iota\rho\alpha$  (Latin *sphaera*) means a *ball*, *sphere*, and  $\eta\mu$  *half*. From these we have the word *hemisphere* for half the globe; and we speak of the eastern and the western, the northern and the southern hemispheres.

From the Latin *globus*, a *globe*, and *planus*, *flat* or *plain*, is formed the compound *planiglobe*, which is applied by some to a representation of the hemisphere on a flat surface. In like manner the English word *spheroid*, meaning a globe flattened at the poles, is formed from the Greek  $\sigma\phi\alpha\iota\rho\epsilon\iota\delta\eta\varsigma$  = globe-like, having the form of a globe.

The Latin verb *rotare*, to *turn like a wheel*, gives us the word *rotation*, the movement of the earth on its axis; and the verb *revolvere*, to *turn again*, to *revolve*, with the noun *revolutio*, gives us the meaning of the *revolution* of the earth; its motion, that is, around the sun.

Still further :

*Πούς* = foot, *ποδός* (gen.) = of the foot, *περί* = round, or about, *ἀντί* = opposite.

From these words we have : 1. *Περίοικοι*, *Perieicians*, *those who dwell around*, meaning the people who live on the same parallel of latitude, but on opposite sides of the globe. The people of Zacatecas in Mexico and those of Bhopal in Central India are perieicians to each other.

2. *Ἀντίοικοι*, *Antecians*, meaning those who live on the same meridian in corresponding degrees of northern and southern latitude. The Japanese of Meaco (Kioto) and the Australians of Adelaide are antecians.

3. *Ἀντίποδες*, *antipodes*, those who live in such relative positions on the globe that a diameter might be drawn from under the feet of the one people to the feet of the other. The inhabitants of Salamanca in Spain, and those of Wellington in New Zealand are the antipodes of each other.

The foregoing examples sufficiently show how, by applying to the rich field of geographical nomenclature a method of intelligent explanation, the teacher may give to the study a most lively interest.

The interpretation of names will offer occasion for suggestive comparisons. The words *ocean* and *sea*, for instance, have for their equivalents in other tongues *welt-meer*, *pontus*, *meer*, *see*, *zee*, *more*, *hai*, etc.; an *island* is *insel*, *isola*, *ilha*, *isla*, *île*, *ö*, *holm*, *jesira*; a *mountain* is *mons*, *monte*, *mont*, *berg*, *pen*, *jebel*, *thabor*, *tepetl*; a *city* is *stadt*, *città*, *ville*, *stad*, *ciudad*, *gorod*, *abad*, *cité*, *pura* (Singapura); and *New City*, or *New Town*, is *Napoli*, *Nystad*, *Villeneuve*, *Novgorod*, *Carthage*, etc.

There should be a generally recognized system of

orthography for geographical names. Why should we write *Cambodia*, *Camboja*, *Kambodja*, *Cambodge*? It were surely better to agree upon one form.\*

In the absence of such a system it will always be necessary, in treating the geography of a country, to establish rules for the pronunciation of the native names. With Italy, for example, the teacher will give the simple rules.† The vowel sounds are known; consonants, much as in English, but *c* is to be sounded like *k*, except before *e* and *i*, when it has the sound of *ch* in *charm*, so that *cio* is sounded *cho*, and *cia*, *cha*.

*Che* and *chi*, Italian, are sounded *ke* and *ki*.

The case is similar with the letter *g*; and all these combinations should be written on the blackboard and copied by the scholars: *k* sound: *ca*, *che*, *chi*, *co* *cu*; *ch* sound: *cia*, *ce*, *ci*, *cio*, *ciu*; *g*, as in *get*: *ga*, *ghe*, *ghi*, *go*, *gu*; *g*, as in *gem*: *gia*, *ge*, *gi*, *gio*, *giu*; *gl* is pronounced like *li* in *pavilion*, and *gn* like *ni* in *union*; *j* is not a consonant in Italian, and is sounded always like a long *i*; *cc* (before *e* and *i*) is a combination where the first *c* has the sound of *t*. In *zz* the first letter has the sound of *t*; the second that of *s*.

The pupil will now be able to pronounce for himself, any of the following names: *Cremona*, *Capri*, *Ischia*, *Chiavenna*, *Como*, *Custoza*, *Vercelli*, *Ticino*, *Mincio*, *Ajaccio*, *Gran Sasso*, *Lago di Como*, *Adige*, *Lago Maggiore*, *Reggio*, *Cagliari*, *Legnano*, *Scirocco* (the hot wind), *Livorno*, *Pavia*, *Verona*.

With very little aid from the teacher, the scholar will

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\* The Royal Geographical Society, of London, has made a beginning towards reformation in this matter.

† See note at the end.



be delighted to find that he can master the sound of almost any Italian name.

The proper pronunciation of French words\* is more difficult than that of Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese, and yet even pupils that are unacquainted with the French language may be brought to pronounce fairly well the names met with in French geography. The rules for guidance should be given by the teacher in a simplified form from any good French grammar, and copied by the pupils from the blackboard.

Correct recitation of the forms and frequent repetition in reading the names are of great importance.

The scholars, made familiar in this way with the apparently lawless combinations in French words, will soon perceive that, so far from being arbitrary, these combinations are the result of settled laws.

There is no very great difficulty with regard to the geographical names of the other European countries, and it must be noted that European names are found in great numbers in many parts of the world outside of Europe.

Particular and carefully marked accents should be used to impress upon the learner the correct pronunciation. This is a point of capital importance, since the knowledge of the pronunciation fixes the word in the mind.

In filling up the design of a method for facilitating and enlivening the study of geography by explanation of the names—such as the method now offered, if it recommend itself,—it would be of service to provide for a survey and review of the teacher's work by the pupils. In this way the facts, made fresher by repetition, would be more deeply impressed upon the memory. It is a question for

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\* See note on page 381.

consideration whether it would be more advisable to explain all the names belonging to any one language, wherever found, or to treat thoroughly those of one country at a time.

In either case there is some danger of going too far, and so losing sight of the principal object.

The order to be followed is to begin with those European countries which have played a leading part in history, ancient, mediæval, and modern.

The Balkan Peninsula takes, therefore, the first place, with its important Greek names. These should be written down (especially in the beginning) in the Greek characters, and below these their Latin equivalents. The diligent pupil will soon acquire the knowledge of the Greek alphabet, and be able to read the names as written on the board and pronounced by the teacher.

Then will follow Italy, the Iberian Peninsula, France, Great Britain and Ireland, Scandinavia, Russia and the Slavic countries, Hungary, Germany, and the Netherlands. After these will come Asia, Africa, Australia, and Oceania, South and Central America, Mexico, and the West India Islands. British America ought to precede the United States, since the latter would naturally concentrate the chief attention of Americans.

The explanations of physical and mathematical geography would form the conclusion.

The rules for pronunciation should be given as each European country is taken up. For other parts of the world reference should be made to what has been already written.

This would complete a sufficient "guide" for the different higher schools, and a most useful supplement to every school geography.

The teacher, after pointing out in the various parts of the world the words derived from any one language, might call upon one of the foremost pupils to draw up a systematic table of names belonging to some widely spread language, such as Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, or English. This would familiarize the scholars with the lessons already learned, and with many important facts of history.

The principle of facilitating the study of geography is one never to be lost sight of, and the first explanations must, therefore, be made in a simple way, as already indicated.

In the "guide" given to the pupil the separate names, with their translations, will be printed in the order already given, and after these, in larger type, the compound names with the translations. A note, when necessary, should be in parenthesis, and the derivation of a name from a distinguished person or from a particular incident should be given in smaller type.

Names explained in different ways, or the meaning of which is in dispute, should be excluded.

In special cases the pronunciation deduced from the rules given should be added in a parenthesis. In words liable to be wrongly accentuated, the right syllable should be marked.

These distinctions will be made clear by the use of type of different sizes.

This detailed outline of a plan for the explanation of geographical names, a subject in itself of the highest interest, has been elaborated by the writer under the entire conviction of the value and usefulness of some such system. It will, as he believes, draw teachers and scholars

more closely together in their common pursuit, by relieving the mind of a burden of dead sounds and replacing these with living and significant terms. It cannot but contribute to exalt the dignity and widen the scope of geographical study, and it must add largely to the advances made in this branch of education within the last few decades.

NOTE.—In the *foreign geographical names*

<i>a</i>	sounds like <i>a</i> in <i>father</i>	= <i>ā</i> (a long), or
	" <i>a</i> in <i>fat</i>	= <i>ă, ă</i> (a short) ;
<i>e</i>	" <i>e</i> in <i>fate</i>	= <i>ē, ē</i> , or
	" <i>e</i> in <i>met</i>	= <i>é, é</i> ;
<i>i</i>	" <i>i</i> in <i>marine</i>	= <i>ī, ī</i> , or
	" <i>i</i> in <i>pin</i>	= <i>î, î</i> ;
<i>o</i>	" <i>o</i> in <i>note</i>	= <i>ō, ō</i> , or
	" <i>o</i> in <i>not</i>	= <i>ó, ó</i> ;
<i>u</i>	" <i>oo</i> in <i>room</i>	= <i>ū, ū</i> , or
	" <i>u</i> in <i>bullet</i>	= <i>ú, ú</i> .

<i>ā</i> : Montāna	Santiāgo	<i>î</i> : Middletown	Quito
<i>ă</i> : Charleston	Caracas	<i>ō</i> : Dākōta	Bōgotá
<i>ē</i> : Édinburgh	Montevideō	<i>ó</i> : Róckford	Orinóco
<i>é</i> : Frédericksburg	Cayénne	<i>ū</i> : (Liverpool)	Angostūra
<i>ī</i> : (Greendale)	Līma	<i>ú</i> : Lake Sūpērior	Acapúlco

In the *Italian language* *a* sounds like *a* in *father* (*ā*), or like *a* in *fat* (*ă*) ; *e* = *a* in *fate* (*ē*), or *e* in *met* (*è*) ; *i* = *i* in *marine* (*ī*), or *i* in *pin* (*î*) ; *o* = *o* in *note* (*ō*), or *o* in *not* (*ó*) ; *u* = *oo* in *room* (*ū*), or *u* in *bullet* (*ú*) ; \* *j* = *y*.

*ā* : Carrāra ; *ă* : Málta ; *ē* : Spolēto ; *é* : Palérmo ; *ī* : Torīno ; *î* : Bríndisi ; *ō* : Ancōna ; *ó* : Campo Fórmio ; *ū* : Siracūsa ; *ú* : Abrúzzo ; \* *j* : Pistója.

In the *French language*—1. *â* = *ā* (like *a* in *father*). 2. *é* = *é* (like *a* in *fate*). 3. *ê* = *ē* (like *e* in *met*). 4. *ô* = *ō* (like *o* in *note*). 5. *u* = *ū* (German *ü* in Müller, *u* in the French word *parapluie*). 6. *ai, ay* = *ē* (like *a* in *fate*). 7. *au, eau* = *ō* (like *o* in *note*). 8. *oi* = *ōă*. 9. *ou* = *ū* (like *oo* in *room*). 10. *c* before *e* and *i*, *ç* before *a, o*, and *u* = *ss* (sharp), otherwise *k*. 11. *ch* = *sh* (sharp). 12. *g* before *e* and *i* = *zh*, otherwise like *g* in *girl*. 13. *j* = *zh*. 14. *v* = Latin *v*, German *w*. 15. *gn* = *ni* in *onion*. 16. *c, d, e, es, g, r, s, t, x* are mute at the end of the syllables. 17. The baptismal name of John sounds in the French language : *zhā* (Jean), *an, en* = *ā* ; the French have further the *nasal sounds* of (18) [see Grammar for nasal *en* and *in*], (19) *ō* (on), and (20) [see Grammar for nasal *un*].

1. *Chalōns* (shālō). 2. *Sèvres* (sēv'r). 3. *Dauphiné* (dofiné). 4. *Saône* (sōn). 5. *Durance* (dūrāss). 6. *Calais* (calē), *Cambray* (cābrē). 7. *Bordeaux* (bordō). 8. *Loire* (lōār). 9. *Toulouse* (tulūs), *Tours* (tūr). 10. *The Cevennes, Besançon*

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(bezässö), *Clermont* (clermö). 11. *Chamouni* (shamuni), *La Rochelle* (la roshell).  
 12. *Gironde* (zhiröd), *Garonne* (garon). 13. *Anjou* ([nasal an]zhu), *dijon* (dizhō).  
 14. *Le Havre* (le hāv'r). 15. *Champagny* (shāpanyi). 16. *Mont Blanc* (mō blā).  
*Saint Cloud* (s[nasal in] clū), *Marne* (marn), *Seine* (sēn), *Bayonne* (bayónn), *Marsaille* (marsēy), *Narbonne* (narbónn), *Nîmes* (nīm), *Versailles* (versäy), *Cherbourg* (sherbūr), *Montpellier* (möpellîë), *Saint Denis* (s[nasal in] déni), *Poitiers* (póätië),  
*Belfort* (béför). 17. *La Manche* (la māsh), *Lorient* (loriä), *Le Mans* (le mā),  
*Nantes* (nāt), *Rouen* (ruā), *Sedan* (sedā). 18. *Saint Quentin* (s[nasal in] kã t[nasal in]).  
 19. *Avignon* (aviniö), *Lyön* (liö), *Toulon* (tulö). 20. *Verdun* (verd[nasal un]).